

To the DOER:

I teach young children in the Greenfield Public School system. I also work in public health with people who have compromised immune systems. These two populations are particularly vulnerable to the hazards of biomass power plants, but whole communities are also threatened by this process. Biomass does not fit into

the renewable energy portfolio. Wood incineration is not carbon neutral. It is not clean, rather dirty. Biomass plants emit more CO₂ than an equivalently sized coal plant. You know the science.

In June, Greenfield voters voted 84% against the use of wastewater as wet-coolant, but everyone knows this vote was really against biomass. In Western

MA we don't have the trees for one plant, much less the 4 proposed plants. If the owner of the energy companies weren't receiving \$60 million in tax money upon completion, there would be no plant. It is all about the money; money for the incinerator people. The plant in Greenfield costs \$250 million to build. If you invested this 1/4 billion in weatherization and solar energy, you would be creating many local jobs, while conserving energy and raising the quality of life by improving people's homes. As it presently stands, the Greenfield plant isn't going to heat Greenfield homes. You would also be saving a very valuable resource - our forests.

It is your job to protect our woodlands, water, and air quality. To pursue renewable energy is to be committed to reducing CO₂. We must put clean energy subsidies into legitimate clean energy projects such as wind, hydro, geothermal,

solar, and wave. As mentioned above, conservation is an essential component of any renewable resource/clean energy program.

I request that you cease the permits for biomass power plants and all tax subsidies for them. Further, the Manomet study uses assumptions that are not rooted in any valid scientific research when they suggest that forest-burning biomass

is less destructive and hazardous than it really is.

Thank you,

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